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SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE RECENT PROGRESS IN SPECTROSCOPY¹

WE should pause a moment to pay a tribute of respect to the eminent physicists who have died during the past year. Among these may be named John Oren Reed, of the University of Michigan; Arthur W. Wright, one of the pioneers in physical research in this country; Cleveland Abbe, the father of the Weather Bureau; Sylvanus Thompson, the many-sided scholar; Ernst Mach, the philosophic thinker, and Pierre Duhem, the mathematical physicist. We honor these men for their achievements, but we need not grieve that they have left us, for their full day's work was done; but sorrow we must over the needless and untimely end of many young men who had given promise of brilliant careers, and countless others, whose names we shall never know, whose potential genius has been sacrificed to the Moloch which is the mongrel offspring of the union of a brutish feudalism with the vampire of commercial exploitation. While we may form some conception of the loss of life and property in the great war, no one can ever guess the extent of the irreparable loss to humanity caused by the destruction of embryo scholars and statesmen, artists and scientists. It is the irony of fate that so many scientists have been the victims of the conditions arising from ignorance, superstition, greed and devotion to outworn traditions

¹ Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section B—Physics—of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, New York meeting, December, 1916.